

**STATE SENATOR • HANSEN CLARKE • 1ST DISTRICT**

# **Clarke Press Release**

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## **SENATOR WANTS TO SEE DETROIT'S SHUTTERED SCHOOLS REBORN**

**Clarke Says Facilities Should Survive to Serve Community Needs**

**(Lansing, MI)** State Senator Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit) is developing a plan to convert some of the 34 Detroit public schools scheduled for closing into facilities that will provide services to local neighborhoods. Sen. Clarke's proposal will convert buildings into community centers to provide neighborhood services including after-school programs, job training, health-related services, day care, and recreational activities.

"These buildings are structurally sound and can still perform an important role in helping to build stronger local neighborhoods," said Sen. Clarke. "We must do everything we can to improve the quality of life for Detroit's families and give parents every reason to remain invested in Detroit's future."

Senator Clarke's initiative comes in the wake of the announcement by Detroit Public Schools that 34 public schools will be shuttered in June, displacing 10,000 students. The Senator will approach state and local officials, as well as non-profit foundations, to find ways to put these facilities back to work for the community.

"If these buildings can't serve the community as they were originally intended, I would like to see them reborn in ways that help to build a better future for Detroit," said Sen. Clarke. "My

message to Detroit's parents is don't get discouraged and don't give up. We can resolve our financial problems and still build a stronger community."

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